

January 1, 1886 The Omish church of Tazewell County have expressed themselves in favor of their people becoming naturalized citizens of the U.S. Their example should be followed by their brethren everywhere in this country.

January 8, 1886 John Finnegan, the teamster, hauled the first load of coal hoisted from the new shaft, south of town, Monday, and distributed the chunks gratuitously to our business men as a sample.

New Year's night for the purpose of paying their respects to their numerous friends, Messrs. J.R. Rayburn, H.B. Perlee, W.C. Wade, F.C. Baker, J.C. Graff, A.C. Cooley, F.C. Carrithers and E.E. McDowell engaged Prof. Jones' orchestra and embarked on a serenade tour of the town. The music was very fine indeed.

January 15, 1886 P.C. James of Texas is registered at the Archer House.

George Franzen, who has been with the Independent Blade for fourteen months, has severed connections.

January 22, 1886 Sibley Index stopped.

February 12, 1886 T.A. Beach bought the Murdock Building. The Blade will stay where it is but Dr. Lewis will occupy the two front rooms upstairs.

February 19, 1886 M.A. Fugate returned to his home in Nebraska with a car of horses Monday night.

March 26, 1886 Zack Hanna, Will Langabeer and Steven Hallock went to the Piper City swamps Monday to shoot ducks for a few days.

A "Pie Sociable" will be held at the residence of A. Filley under the auspices of the M.E. Church Thursday evening, April 15th. An interesting literary program will be one of the features, and all are invited.

G. Stoller store fails.

April 16, 1886 Doc. Ostrander's office over Ramsey's drug store.

April 23, 1886 P.C. James has two car loads of horses on the road from Austin, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Hi Taylor of Bryan, Ohio is visiting relative here.

Rufus Huntoon's portraits in India ink and water colors are now on exhibition at the Post Office. They attract favorable attention from all. He has opened a studio over Zimmerman's drug store.

April 30, 1886 Steve Murdock returned from Kansas City looking fresh as a pansy blossom.

Tommy Beach is having his fine residence painted inside and out.

Mrs. T.A. Beach had a severe attack of cholera morbus Tuesday night, and for a time her condition was considered very serious.

May 14, 1886 Tommy Beach, George Gravinna, and George Morris left last week for Washington DC where they expect to spend two or three weeks.

(New formation: 3 line ads between the local news items.)

Archer House.

May 21, 1886 Ad: Equine Bureau of Seders and Son.

H. Schnetzler, second hand dealer bought Stoller's stock.

June 18, 1886 The Blade Cigar (New).

June 25, 1886 Vol. XVI No. I.

New formation - Local brevities on first page. C.E. Carter publisher. 8 pages. Neighboring news page 5. Rest syndicated stuff. A.I. Baker local editor.

July 2, 1886 Juvenile Opera Company from Chicago at Opera House.

The band boys serenaded around town.

July 16, 1886 Ad: Mikado bustles in wire and bamboo at Walton's

July 23, 1886 Percy James tarried with us a few days this week on business (?)

Printers vs. Barbers ball game at fairground. Printers won.

Harry Perlee has brain fever. He went to the store at seven o'clock, and during the morning he was not feeling well and started to walk home. Feeling worse, he sat down back of the Catholic Church and went to sleep. Tommy Beach started the search for him. They rang the fire bell, and several hundred men and boys started out to find him. Tommy Beach found him. The next day a high fever set in, but he is better now.

July 30, 1886 T.A. Beach and I.P. McDowell request all parties stop going through their fields and pastures east of town to the river because of stock.

August 6, 1886 Ladies hose 10 cents at Walton's.

The eggars have not yet been detected, but the public at large may rest assured that the Fairbury people do not approve of such lawless acts.

A man who will sell his cow for money to sport with another man's wife is no good on earth. Get on to him and give him the run. He was in Fairbury yesterday.

J.E. Lewis returned home last week with a game leg. In a scuffle with other traveling men while on the cars, he broke a small bone at the ankle joint. He is getting on very well under the treatment of his brother.

August 13, 1886 Dr. G.C. Lewis received his sheepskin from the Wesleyan University of Ohio, entitling him to take rank as M.A.

August 20, 1886 Dr. Lewis was called to Weston Wednesday to attend Frank Allison who met with an accident while hunting. The Doctor found it necessary to amputate the thumb and first two fingers of the left hand, as well as half of the hand back to the wrist joint.

August 27, 1886 Dr. Brewer building fine new home near the Presbyterian Church.

September 10, 1886 Claudon Bros. mill.

Street parade and evening concert by the John Negrotto Dramatic Company.

Tommy Beach says that he has enough soft water in his cistern to last until spring even if it did not rain until that time. In the eyes of a poor, unfortunate, ink-be-smeared, dust covered newspaperman like me, Tommy's hole in the ground is more to be envied than an earthquake block in Charleston.

September 17, 1886 Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Rev Leever, the mother and sister of J.E. and G.C. Lewis, arrived Wednesday morning from Ohio to spend a few weeks with friends and relatives.

Tommy McDowell is a barker at the Fair. The owners had complained that they couldn't pay the privilege fee, and Tommy took over.

October 1, 1886 Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Beach left yesterday for Cincinnati, taking advantage of the excursion rates.

October 8, 1886 P.C. James is attending the big Fair at St. Louis.

Nutting parties among the youth and beauty of our hamlet is the order of every fine day. The chestnut is the most abundant species this fall.

John Virgin and Abe Filley went to the timber Saturday to fall a bee tree which they had discovered. All the available tubs, pans and pails were taken along to bring the honey back, and their mouths watered as they thought of the winter's store of honey at hand. After several hours of chopping, they got the tree down, but the darned old tree had never seen a bee or a drop of honey in its life. "What fools we mortals be."

October 22, 1886 Little Harry Lewis fell off from old "John", the family horse, Monday morning and broke the wrist of his right arm.

November 5, 1886 Dr. Ostrander has removed his office to his residence where he will be pleased to accommodate his patrons night or day.

November 12, 1886 Misses Ollie Filley and Lilly McDowell and Messers G.E. Amsbury, G.Y. McDowell, and Charles Rossier let the rays of their countenances shine on Washington last Sabbath.

A new Column: Society doings and gossip chat by Romeo.

November 19, 1886 Col. Town Topics, by Romeo.

F. Filley went to Jackson, Michigan yesterday on a combined business and pleasure trip.

Judge McDowell is to go to Washington, D.C. for the winter.

December 3, 1886 Frank Churchill of Chenoa, Mark Anthony of Washington, George Cramer of Bloomington, George Morahn of Sandwich, and P.C. James of Washington, attended the Woodman Ball Thanksgiving night, and all with Fairbury young ladies as company.

Romeo's Opinion and Comments:

Ad: Children's cloaks 25 cents and up. Shawls \$1.43 at Perlee's.

Hymeneal

No small amount of stir was created in social circles Tuesday by the announcement that Miss Ollie Filley would wed Mr. P.C. James of Washington the following morning. Although the event was looked for, it was not thought at all likely to take place quite so suddenly nor so soon, and the favored few who received the impromptu invitation could scarcely realize the situation. It was a surprise to all, even her most intimate associates, and was perpetrated ingenuously, as subsequent disclosed. The affair had been quietly arranged and planned, and was carried out to the letter. The nuptial rites were solemnized at 9 o'clock Wednesday at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Filley, and witnessed by none but a few of the most intimate friends of the contracting parties. The Rev. Dr. Palmer of the M.E. Church officiated with his usual grace, after which a sumptuous breakfast was attacked under the command of Brigadier General John Virgin. The bride was tastily attired and looked pretty in a mousse shade of silk ornamented with jetted with appliqué designs to match and wore natural flowers. Her traveling suit was a neat fitting, embroidered Castor colored Northumberland serge. The happy pair boarded the 8:45 train amid a shower of rice and blessings, for Chicago, where they will spend a brief honeymoon and return to Washington, their future home. The bride is one of Fairbury's prominent young ladies and is too well known to need comment here. Mr. James, we understand, comes from good parentage. The Blade echoes each and every good wish for their future.

December 10, 1886 Dr. Lewis has another patient since yesterday morning – a very small one, however, a daughter, and Grandpa Tommy Beach is now figuring on another baby carriage.

December 24, 1886 Miss Fribbie Filley leaves today for Washington where she takes part in a Christmas entertainment in the evening and visits during the balance of school vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Beach will leave on the Cannon Ball next Wednesday for California where they will remain during the winter.

Mrs. AF Filley received the sad intelligence by telegram Wednesday morning from Nebraska that the wife of her brother, "Chub" Fugate was taken very ill and could not live. Her mother, Mrs. Fugate, boarded the first train for Hastings.

December 31, 1886 George Beach was in the city Wednesday.

Mrs. P.C. James of Washington, was the guest of her parents Christmas Day.

Possum Supper at the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

January 14, 1887 Tommy Beach and wife are in Los Angeles.

January 28, 1887 Mrs. P.C. James tendered her friends a progressive Euchre party Saturday evening which was greatly enjoyed.

Dr. Ostrander 50 years practice, 2,604 births.

Abe Filley and Cy Belck took in a turkey match out in the country a few days ago. And but for the fact that low jack goes out before high game would have undoubtedly brought in two very fine birds. Such is life.

February 4, 1887 Straight's Tile Factory burned.

February 11, 1887 Hoodlums around depot sending notes to women passengers.

Formation changed: No locals.

February 25, 1887 Mr. and Mrs. P.C. James visited Fairbury relative this week.

March 11, 1887 Personal taxes must be paid at once. Call and get the collector's receipt.

Wade's Drug Store ad.

The boys of this city who frequent public places have of late behaved remarkably well, comparatively speaking. The hoodlum element will soon die out if the improvement keeps on in the same rate.

William Karnes, who has been the janitor of the Fairbury schools for the past six years, informs us of one of the most remarkable incidents that has come under his notice during the time was two school girls who during cold weather and warm, whether the thermometer was above zero or below, have never worn anything on their heads or even wraps, on their way to school.

A two story brick building is to be built by T.S.O. McDowell at the corner of Locust and Third. The corner front is to be occupied by the First National Bank and the rear by the post office. The Blade has quarters above.

March 18, 1887 Judge W.G. McDowell has traded residence property here for real estate in Washington, D.C. and we understand will hereafter reside in Washington most of the time.

Messer's J.E. and G.C. Lewis started on Tuesday afternoon for Clay Center, Kans., to attend the funeral of their brother, Hunter Lewis, of whose death they were informed by a dispatch that day.

March 25, 1887 C.L. Perlee took J.E. Lewis's place on the road which Mr. L. was absent in Kansas.

April 1, 1887. Mr. and Mrs. P.C. James of Washington, visited in the city several days the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Beach returned Sunday from their extended trip in Calif. And the west. They left Calif. On March 10, and have since visited in Col and Neb. Mr. Beach reports that Ed Scibird, Jake Thornton, and other Fairburyans whom has seen in Colo. Are well and prospering.

April 8, 1887 George Franzen is a postal clerk on the Streator and Fairbury route.

April 15, 1887 Fairbury Gun Club organized last Friday.

April 22, 1887 Delinquent taxes received at Beach and Dominy's bank.

T.A. Beach has been confined to the house the past ten days, being ill with intermittent fever. He is now improving. Fairbury has nine barbers, and yet not a man in town has had his throat cut or been talked to death since the last presidential election.

April 29, 1887 Fifteen painters in Fairbury.

Levi J. Odell has invented a new typewriting machine and has left the Moline Plow Company. It is the most simple in construction and operation that has ever been produced. C.H. Odell took half interest, for which he paid \$1,000. They sold a mining millionaire half interest for \$50,000. They have incorporated a stock company under the laws of Wisconsin to the amount of \$100,000, and are to be located at Geneva Lake, Wisconsin, the millionaire's home. The machine is to be sold for \$15.00.

May 6, 1887 "The Last Loaf", a temperance drama to be given at the Opera House by the High School pupils.

The Judge McDowell family have returned from Washington for the summer.

Beach and Dominy, and Harry Bartlett have received plans and specifications for their new building from a Peoria architect, and work will be commenced here 'ere long.

Amsler's Grand Central Dry Goods Store

Charley Odell is Vice-President of the typewriter company.

Percy C. James arrived here Tuesday, having just returned from Texas, where he purchased several car loads of horses. Two cars were attached to a C & A passenger train at St. Louis.

From there to Washington was probably the quickest time ever made by a shipment of stock over the same distance.

Grant and Lillie McDowell started to Europe.

May 20, 1887 A Chenoa girl whose folks don't take any paper and are too stingy to give her pocket money, made a bustle by cutting a pumpkin in half.

G.A.R. Concert and campfire. The exercises were highly satisfactory.

The Odell Company is incorporated with a capital stock of \$100,000.

Gas well flurry among the business men. Murdock was interested. They met at his office.

May 27, 1887 Mrs. P.C. James is here visiting her parents during the absence of Mr. James, who is on another trip to Texas after horses.

Dr. Ostrander reports a cloud durst near Widow Young's place, northwest of town, last Sunday. Wagonloads of hail stones, so the good Doctor says, fell in a single instance, on a place no larger than ten feet square. These cloud bursts will have to be regulated hereafter.

June 3, 1887 W.T. Stackpole last week issued his copyrighted paper upon the "Illinois Coal Field" accompanied with a review of Bloomington's advantages as a manufacturing city, as a supplement to the Bloomington Bulletin.

June 10, 1887 Walton's have a telephone from the store to the elevator. It is the same kind as the one connecting the store and the coal shaft. The telephone works very satisfactorily.

Messers Thomas A. Beach and Chas. F.H. Carrithers have gone off on a trip, probably fishing.

P.C. James had a lot of Texas ponies here the first of the week and met with very good success in disposing of them, selling nine in one day. Parties who have purchased horses of Mr. James know they can depend on a square deal every time, hence are not afraid to look at his stock.

T.A. Beach and C.L. Perlee were in Peoria on business Wednesday.

The fence around the south side school building has been repainted.

W.T. Stackpole is to publish his article on coal. A Peoria firm is to do the printing.

Fairbury business houses now close at 8 o'clock PM.

The iron columns, steps, etc. for the new buildings of Beach and Dominy and Harry Bartlett, have been placed in position. The fronts will present a very solid appearance. The iron used in the two fronts weighs 15,000 lbs. L.W. Kring proprietor of the Fairbury Foundry, furnished the work, and it is of excellent design and quality. Mr. Kring also furnished the fine columns which grace the front of the T.S.O. McDowell building.

July 1, 1887 New sidewalks from the post office south two blocks.

July 8, 1887 Mrs. A.F. Filley and Miss Frib went to Washington Sunday for a few days visit with Mrs. P.C. James.

The brick work on the new Bartlett-Beach-Dominy buildings is finished and has been surmounted by a very handsome cornice. The old corner begins to loom up.

Stackpole to go to Peoria to lecture.

The Blade has moved into its new quarters. The printing presses are upstairs and the business office is on the ground floor next to the post office.

August 12, 1887 CHATSWORTH WRECK

August 17, 1887 The town well in front of Parker Dresser's office was relieved of several wagon loads of filth. The other wells should be cleaned before they get into such a condition.

Work on the water tank and tower was completed Tuesday. The structure has been painted two coats and presents an imposing appearance. The mains are not loaded as far east as Fourth Street.

Beach and Dominy will move into their new banking room in a few days. They will have elegant new quarters fitted up in the best of style. The new counter is a beauty and is the finest possessed by any country bank in this section. It is made of red oak, antique finish, and a network of brass takes the place of the usual glass on top. It was manufactured in Chicago especially for the firm whose new business house it now graces.

Last Saturday Percy C. James received from Virginia, Illinois, a number of fine breeding mares, some of which are of choicest running stock. He will keep them here for a while, as pastures are very poor where they have been. Admirers of equine stock flesh should call at Easton and Westervelt's and see Mr. James' stock.

September 2, 1887 Beach and Dominy are doing business in their new banking rooms which are admired by everybody.

Fairbury's city well has proved inadequate and we need a new one.

September 7, 1887 Four hacks run from Main Street to the Fair Ground. Two of them are quite tony vehicles.

T.A. Beach Supt. of Fair. The Fair excels all previous attempts.

September 16, 1887 P.C. James has been confined to his rooms by sickness a few days past, but is now reported better. He has received a new shipment of horses.

September 30, 1887 Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Beach visiting relations at Preston, Ohio.

Peanut Social at John Virgin's. (The invitations were in peanut shells tied together with ribbons.)

October 7, 1887 Mr. and Mrs. Beach returned.

Prof. Henry Foster of the Pontiac High School was a Fairbury visitor.

Dr. G.C. Lewis went to Washington on a professional visit Wednesday, having been called to the bedside of a sick relative of Mrs. Alvi Barnum.

October 14, 1887 Charles Maunder took out his first naturalization papers. He was English.

Avoirdupois Social" at Mrs. Frances McDowell's. Oysters will be served.

A box containing the "Ladies' Delight" (bot by John Virgin) and "The Gentleman's Horror" (bot by C. Gates) are to be sold to the highest bidder.

P.C. James took the premium on a roadster at the Saybrook Fair.

Judge McDowell is to go to Washington, D.C. permanently. (No regrets expressed)

Johnny McDowell has become the bookkeeper in the First National Bank.

Secret societies of Fairbury exposed. The Modern Woodmen hope that the others will follow. Complete ritual to be given. At Opera House. Adult admission 15 cents, Children 10 cents, (not straight goods – next week's paper)

October 21, 1887 Beach and Dominy's front looks very handsome since the finishing touches have been given to it by Huntoon.

HJ Ramsey bought Judge McDowell's home – 8 lots and an elegant house.

Halloween – walks – gates – outhouses – stray cats.

October 28, 1887 P.C. James is building a mammoth barn, 30 X 43 X 16 ft. to eaves for the accommodation of his largely increasing business. The new building is on A.F. Filley's premises.

November 4, 1887 Those "cranky" serenades Halloween were about the richest things out and did no damage to anybody's front gates.

Editor Baker quitting the Blade.

Fairbury is to have a monthly horse sale. It is the center of large horse growing district.

Ads: Walton's Palace of Trade.

The Fair Store (under the Opera House) Schnetzler new and second hand furniture, dry goods, boots and shoes. 5 – 10 – 25 cent counters.

November 11, 1887 P.C. James sold 15 head of Texas horses last Saturday, which he considers a pretty good day's work.

Cars were sent to friends Saturday, thundering the "Compliments of baby James, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P.C. James". This is a rather unique invasion of Fairbury's customs, and a pleasing example to follow.

Sons of Veterans (society).

Blade offering premiums with the prepaid subscriptions'. The Favorite Cook Book or Websters Dictionary, Illustrated. With Subscription \$1.50.

November 18, 1887 Dan Fugate, of Cornell, took a lively interest in the horse sale Wednesday. It was a success.

November 25, 1887 Nellie Lewis' 10th birthday party.

Turkey shoot.

P.C. James is expecting a car load of choice mares and colts Wednesday.

December 2, 1887 Bartlett-Harmount wedding in Chicago. Mrs. C.C. & Mrs. A.C. Bartlett, and Mrs. J.E. Lewis attended. The groom's mother is to give reception.

W.C.T.U. Meeting

A few intimate friends gathered at the house of T.A. Beach Saturday evening and gave him a pleasant surprise, on the strength of its being his 57th birthday.

(Tone of Blade more cheery.)

Business Men's Association to start Fairbury manufactories (get them to locate here.) Stackpole originated the idea. T.A. Beach joined.

December 16, 1887 Fairbury Improvement and Manufacturing Association will meet in the back room of Dr. Lewis' office. A large attendance is earnestly requested.

December 30, 1887 A toboggan slide is in business.

The Christmas doings at the various churches were very successfully carried out, with the exception of a slight mishap at the M.E. This edifice was well filled, and the presents handsomely arranged on a structure representing a cabin, this latter being covered with cotton in representation of snow. After the exercises, and during the distribution of presents, the cotton unfortunately took fire from a burning taper, and in an instant the entire structure was enveloped in flames. Prompt action, however, saved the presents, and prevented any serious damage to the church. Several window lights were broken, and of course, the carpets and furniture were somewhat soiled. The occupants of the church, as soon as the fire started, made a rush to get out, which was accomplished without anyone sustaining serious injury.

January 6, 1888 Joe Shover was the holder of No. 78 which carried off the hundred dollar manicure set at Ramey's.

The popular fad nowadays is to have a raffle. When this craze dies out it will probably be the privilege of the public to buy goods again in the usual way.

A social club of young ladies, known here a few years ago as the "Aesthetics" had a reunion this week at the residence of Miss Lizzie Stillwell. Of twelve member, six are married, and only five were present.

The toboggan is heavily patronized. They travel 500 feet in 15 seconds.

There is to be a picnic at the toboggan slide. (Too cold for the editor).

P.C. James is training horses for the Fair.

Corn Social at Dominy's for parsonage fund. Menu: Corn hulled with milk, corn mush with milk, corn bread, cornstarch cake, corned beef, corn starch, blanc mange, coffee, corn popped, sweet corn.

January 20, 1888 It is said that George Franzen took a flying leap through the window of his mail car last Monday preparatory to avoiding the dangers that may come from being on a train that's off the track.

Doc. Ostrander says that a dry summer is always followed by a very cold winter.

January 27, 1888 Dan Fugate of Cornell has again identified himself as a citizen of Fairbury.

Stackpole is again advertising real estate.

Protracted meeting at M.E. Church.

The genial "phiz" of Dr. Ostrander is seen on our streets after a severe illness.

T.A. Beach purchased the Chas. Crane eighty, lying south east of town, this week. Tommy will soon be in shape to assume the title of "English Landlord".

Tommy Beach says that it was 18 below zero Wednesday night, while postmaster Baker affirms it was but 14. It would seem evident from this chat there is a difference in the underwear worn by these gentlemen.

A family reunion and birthday surprise on Mrs. Dr. Lewis, occurred Wednesday evening at the elegant house of T.A. Beach, who, was a memorial of the event, presented his daughter with seven very desirable lots located opposite the family residence.

The Free Methodists are building a parsonage.

The Baptists are building a new church to cost \$5,000.

February 17, 1888 Marion Fugate of Hastings, Neb., is in the city renewing old acquaintances.

Dr. J.V. Lewis of Dayton, O., brother of J.E. and Dr. Lewis of Fairbury, died at his home on Tuesday last.

Dr. Rayburn married the daughter of the Archer House's landlord in the hotel parlor.

February 24, 1888 George Franzen, postal clerk, has been transferred to the Santa Fe Railroad.

T.A. Beach and R.C. Straight took the chair car to Peoria and sat opposite a gentleman of muscular appearance and well developed physique. They became aware that they were the center of attraction of all the passengers in the car, and they moved to the smoker. The man came in and took a seat near them, and again they became the center of acute interest. Tommy wanted to get off at Washington and wait for the next train, but Straight persuaded him to stay on. When the three of them arrived at Peoria, they were met by a delegation with lifted hats, saying, "Right this way, gentlemen", and a line of march was taken up, with a band in the lead. T.A. Beach enjoyed it until the crowds began shouting, "Hurrah for Cardiff! Hurrah for Patsy Cardiff, the man who stood before Sullivan", and then Tommy ducked into the nearest doorway.

March 2, 1888 P.C. James went to St. Louis Saturday.

P.C. James is feeling good over the arrival Wednesday of a highly bred colt which gives great promise of speed.

Stackpole interested in coal mine production.

March 17, 1888 New professional card: "G.C. Lewis, AM, M.C., Physician and Surgeon. Office first door east of Beach and Dominy's Bank. Residence with T.A. Beach. Magnetic telephone connecting office with residence. Fairbury, Ill."

March 24, 1888 Percy James was a visitor in El Paso Wednesday.

Hattie Scibird and brother Walter are visiting in Iowa.

March 31, 1888 Wednesday afternoon Dr. Lewis was hastily summoned to attend the two year old child of Ide Harris which has been poisoned by drinking a quantity of medicine that had been prepared for another person, and which Mrs. Harris had taken precautions to keep out of the child's way, but without success. The Doctor administered an emetic, and soon the child was out of danger, although a few minutes delay would probably have made the case hopeless.

Mrs. AF Filley is visiting in Streator.

April 7, 1888 Seven High School pupils are graduating.

The iron watering troughs on Main Street are now supplied with water from the rains. It is a great convenience to farmers, and, in fact, to everybody.

T.A. Beach has gone to Chicago.

Percy James went wolf hunting at Washington.

Ida Kingman is visiting Mrs. P.C. James.

April 14, 1888 German customers will find one who thoroughly understands their language at Ramsey's Drug Store.

April 21, 1888 The contracts for the new mansion to be erected by T.A. Beach have been let. T.D. George will do the masonry work, Brownson and Lawrence the carpenter work, and the lumber will be furnished by I.A. Shedd and Company.

April 28, 1888 P.C. James received a carload of well bred western mares.

David Murdock sold his law business to Wilson.

May 12, 1888 Grace Sharp graduated from High School. There were seven graduated, all being girls.

May 19, 1888 The last shipment of western horses received by P.C. James is a very fine lot of animals.

Walton Ad: There is Blood Upon the Face of the Moon. A Revolution has struck our store, having all the characteristics of a Kansas cyclone or a Mississippi flood. Old time prices scattered to the winds.

May 26, 1888 Henry Foster of Pontiac won't teach next year, but will devote his talents to journalism.

June 9, 1888 The street sprinkler has put on city airs, having been adorned with colored posters till it resembles a circus wagon.

P.C. James's pair of fine horses failed to come with the carload, he will claim their values. They were missing at St. Louis when they were transferred there.

June 16, 1888 Stackpole a candidate for State legislature on the Democratic ticket.

June 26, 1888 At the gate of a south side residence, a young lady was parting with her beau – "If you were to kiss me you might be afraid that ma would hear; but if I creak the gate she won't know the difference."

June 30, 1888 Trades parade for the Fourth.

July 7, 1888 The T.A. Beach people are entertaining relatives from Ohio.

July 14, 1888 Presidential election year. Prohibitionists active.
T.A. Beach went to Chicago Wednesday for a whiff of the lake breeze.

July 21, 1888 Dr. Lewis amputated two fingers of a boy who had got his hand caught in a hay pulley.

Percy James is at the Peoria races.

August 4, 1888 DuBois and Baker now publishing Blade.

Percy James running "Jessie Dale" at the Fair.

August 18, 1888 Have you ever noticed how many of our farmers are provided with fine carriages? There is hardly a farmer in this section but has a top buggy, and many of them possess elegant family turnouts.

Fairbury has better and more sidewalks than Pontiac. There are thirty-three miles of them in Fairbury.

Dr. Lewis treated a baby scalded by an overturned coffee pot, and a young man who had cut the artery just below the knee with a hedge knife.

Dan Fugate's birthday party.

August 25, 1888 Don't get angry when you talk politics. It may show that you are sincere, but it does not show that your argument is backed by good sense.

The fine residence being erected by T.A. Beach on Hickory Street will be completed soon. It is a model of neatness and good taste, and will be one of the handsomest homes in the city.

September 1, 1888 P.C. James received a shipment of 31 more head of horses.

The Arcade Block is looming up. A new restaurant has been opened by Mrs. Z.E. Deitz, and a new meat market by C. Deitz.

Gypsies are camping by the stone quarry.

Stackpoles article on Illinois minerals.

Miss Anola Lewis, daughter of Hon. E.C. Lewis, of Canal Dover, Ohio, arrived in Fairbury this week, and is a guest of the J.E. Lewis mansion.

Virgin's new barn - balconies, fine tower - artistic painting.

September 8, 1888 Oysters have struck the town hard in spite of warm weather.

The speaker's stand on Wednesday and Thursday evenings was lighted by electric light, furnished by Harry Amsbary and Clark Baker from a dynamo of their own construction, which is quite a success. The machine was operated in the Blade office by power from the engine, and wires run from the building to the stand.

Wednesday was the Democratic Rally. They had the Colfax Glee Club.

Thursday was the Republican - "bigger'n better". "It knocked the eye out of the democratic. "Private Joe Fifer spoke, and received a big ovation. "Parade rockets, Roman candles and blue lights cast a refulgent glare over the whole city, the like of which was never seen before in Fairbury."

September 15, 1888 Percy James had six head of horses at the Wenona Fair. His horse, "Jessie Dale", won a race there, with heavy bets on her. A big crowd watched the race.

September 22, 1888 Each one of Gilbo's tombstones are reported as erected.

James' standard bred horses took five first premiums and one second at the Wenona Fair. they are now at El Paso.

E.W. McIntosh has sold 14,000 picture of himself just after his release from Andersonville prison at 25 cents a piece.

Mrs. Will Nimmo is suing Waltons for \$5,000.00 damages for the death of her husband in their mine.

Henry Kingman is visiting.

(Political cartoons)

September 29, 1888 Huntoon is moving his family from Pontiac to Fairbury.

Baker severs connection with Blade.

Mrs. L.B. Dominy and A. Cooley went to Chicago Thursday for the purpose of selecting wall paper and decorations for the Dominy mansion.

October 6, 1888 The old home place of HJ Ramsey opposite his present residence was purchased this week by O.P. McDowell.

Huntoon bought the Belck property of South Fifth street and has taken possession.

Chenoa canning factory started.

"At Hymens Altar."

Mrs. P.C. James and little daughter left Wednesday evening for an extended visit with relatives and friends in Missouri and Kansas. Mr. James will join the later in the season.

(Baker goes to Pantagraph.)

October 13, 1888 Ad. Palace Aladdin hard coal stoves.

P.C. James went to Ottawa to buy colts, but he couldn't find any good enough. His thorobreds won him 17 first premiums and two seconds at three Fairs this fall.

A recherche card party at J.E. Lewis' for Anola.

John Thornton, cider maker, is overworked with business. The come from thirty miles away.

Copies of Blade very cheap for housecleaning.

Fairbury is becoming quite a resort for retired farmers.

(The Blade certainly has perked up!)

HJ Ramsey was from West Virginia. His family are visiting there.

October 20, 1888 J.E. Lewis bought another buggy. He has four now.

We have some new lamp posts around town.

October 27, 1888 A.F. Filley is making an addition to his barn on his residence place, for his own private use.

Mrs. Frances McDowell's house, three blocks north of Ramsey's drug store is being sold.

P.C. James - more horses.

Halloween, the day the boys celebrate, is billed to arrive in Fairbury next Wednesday. It will be best to deposit your front gates in the cellar if you want to save time and trouble the following morning. Also, take the chain off your dog and lock it around your buggy wheels, the chain, not the dog - and for your neighbor's sakes put your turnips and cabbages where the small boys can't get them. Be wise and prepare against the evil day.

Will Banes of Waynesburg, Pa., is a guest of Dominy's

Anna Stackpole is a stenographer in Chicago.

November 3, 1888 P.C. James got a car load of Texas ponies. The Hon. John Virgin is Vice-President of the State Fair.

Prof. Vaughn's wife is sick. They have rented the house they just built in Pontiac, and have moved to Washington state.

November 10, 1888 (The plays at the Opera House have been going right along)

They say Salman Allen voted Percy James' horses on Tuesday.

R.C. Huntoon has his studio over Beach and Dominy's Bank. Thirteen years ago he had a class of 36 here.

Harrison and Fifer. The Republican ticket is victorious in county, state and nation.

November 17, 1888 Huntoon life sized portraits \$5.

The glass fronts in the Arcade Block were badly shattered Thursday evening by the concussion from the explosion of those cotton balls.

November 24, 1888 Dr. Lewis ad now reads "Residence opposite T.A. Beach."

The little folks have lots of fun watching he monkey climb the string in Ramsey's show window.

Dr. Lewis moved into his new house opposite T.A. Beach this week. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have a beautiful home.

Judge Zimmerman, Justice of Peace, moved from his office over Ramsey's to Squire Olney's old office.

T.A. Beach went to Chicago.

Mrs. Percy James returned Sunday night from her visit to Kansas and Missouri.

Mrs. A.F. Filley went to Chicago Monday to visit and look after A.F. who is engaged in the Fat Stock Exhibition.

December 1, 1888 Large front page wood cut of John Virgin and Co.'s new Horse Palace.

P.C. James purchased a car of half breed Norman horses.

Fairbury's physicians are reaping the fruits of a well earned reputation in the adjacent towns. They are receiving calls almost daily to towns within a radius of 25 miles.

T.A. Beach goes on record as a crack shot in a contest with F. O. Hobbs Thursday, with a Worcester rifle, at 100 yards, Mr. Beach came off victorious making a couple of center shots. There are no flies on T.A.

Thanksgiving Day in Fairbury: Union Church service - a few of the stores closed during noon hours - afternoon shooting match at Fairground - M.E. Church supper at the parsonage. A.O.H. Ball in the evening.

Description of Virgin's barn: Brick and frame, 40 X 200 ft, and accommodated 50 head of horses. It had feed rooms, grinding rooms, box stalls, and a contrivance to exercise four horses at one time. The office is to the right on the first floor. Mr. Virgin's private office is just above it on the second floor.

December 8, 1888 Boys are tearing down business signs again.

The toboggan slide is being improved.

Stackpole is working on the waterway project.

December 29, 1888 Possum supper at the A.M.E. Church. (Thirteen possums were procured from St. Louis.)

Cards out for John McDowell and Ida Amsler's wedding. Heading: A Recherche Wedding.

January 5, 1889 Mrs. C.D. Bartlett married Mr. John Worthington, of Plain City, Ohio.

Paducah tracks used to run to Strawn. The farmers want them relaid.

February 2, 1889 Charlie Perlee's children seriously ill with typhoid.

February 9, 1889 A surprise party was perpetrated on Mrs. P.C. James Tuesday.

The physicians still have their hands full of business. Dr. Brewer remarked one day this week that he had made 46 calls during the day.

February 16, 1889 The Presbyterian young people will give a Chocolataire at Wearver's. They will have a homemade confectionary stand, paper bazar, and give a short musical program.

February 23, 1889 Ball at Opera House. Costumes described again. Supper at Archer House.

March 2, 1889 Meat: Beef 6 and 10 cents lb.

Boys sprinkled red pepper over the Free Methodist Church stove. Everyone was so taken with coughing so loudly that it was impossible to continue the meeting. Grant Vanover did it. He got a \$5 fine.

(Correspondence on first page.)

Special issue about Fairbury and the business men.

Bartlett and Taylor Grain Company.

Outline of Walton Bros. business

Dr. Lewis: "Business office which is one door east of Beach and Dominy's bank, is tastefully furnished. He keeps a supply of pure drugs for his own use, and has a very fine collection of surgical instruments and appliances. His office is connected by telephone with the residence. Dr. Lewis is a scholarly gentleman, a close student of his profession, and has a fine library which contains all the standard medical works. He has, during his six years residence, built up an extensive and lucrative practice."

March 7, 1889 The front rooms on the second floor at the Beach, Dominy and Bartlett Building are being refitted and rearranged in elegant style, and when completed will be occupied by Taylor and Weaver, the real estate loan agents. They will have the finest office rooms in the city.

Frank Fincham was arrested for disturbing the meeting at the Holiness Church.

Mrs. P.C. James went to Washington, Illinois, Tuesday, for a visit with friends.

Fred Wernsman was injured by an exploding gun. Dr. Lewis dressed the wound.

Boys and young men crowd the steps of passenger trains to ride a short distance. The company is going to put a stop to it.

Dr. Lewis was called to attend a beaten up German. He was hurt internally and had a close shave.

Dr. Lewis patched up a man caught in a corn sheller.

March 23, 1889 Stanley Perlee has gone into partnership with Charley.

Big farm horse parade put on by dealers. They were headed by the Fairbury Concert Band. Virgin and Company, and McDowell Bros. were among the participants, also J.F. O'Brian and Austin Harrington.

The horse breeding business is assuming immense proportions in this part of the country.

March 30, 1889 Rogers is selling the Fairbury House because of ill health. It has 45 rooms. Rogers has conducted it for twelve years.

April 13, 1889 The ground was staked out last Wednesday morning for the beginning of the new buildings on the Fair Grounds.

John Virgin says he has taken a cold, and would like to have two or three Pontiac cranks to sneeze for him.

Another large importation of Germans. (The blade attitude has always been very condescending.)

Blade wants the cards of thanks of the bereaved tabooed. It wants unity of action from the newspapers, like stopping publishing the lists of wedding presents.

Breeders and fanciers of roadster horses put on a parade on Main Street, Saturday, with the Fairbury Cornet band - P.C. James among them.

Scarlet fever epidemic. Schools closed.

Miss Allie Scibird was a guest of her friend, Miss Maggie Kring, this week.

The M.E. young ladies are raising money for an organ.

Dr. Lewis reports a girl to Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Shook, and three other births.

Bane-Dominy wedding. The groom's brother was an expert guitarist, and he proceeded the party to the altar. "Glare of the gas lights" again.

May 4, 1889 Miss Frib Filley left Tuesday for Filley, Nebraska, where she will spend the summer with her uncle.

The Blade wants a corner stone laying for the new town hall.

Dan Fugate's house burned.

Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Taylor returned to their Ohio home the first of the week.

Dr. Lewis 2 Ob. He attended a poisoned child who died.

Boys went fishing with dynamite, which was against the law, and they hid in the woods for a couple of days to try and escape the consequences.

May 18, 1889 The Blade registers a big kick about the Fair catalogues. Carter, Fair Secretary, was also of the Local record, and the record got the job of printing the catalogues without permitting any bidding on them. (The Blade always did it before.) George Franzen lost job as postal clerk.

The Blade wants someone to invent a staw binder.

The M.E. Church has been redecorated and repaired, and has a new organ. The ceiling has been beautifully frescoed and the woodwork painted.

Abe Filley is wrestling with a boil on the palm of his hand.

May 25, 1889

Upset

Abe Filley was driving out to his potato patch with some bug finish Wednesday and when opposite Marvin Baker's residence, his horse shied while crossing the culvert bridge and jumped clean off into the big ditch. The buggy was upset and Mr. Filley found himself beneath the vehicle when he struck terra firma. Luckily he was not injured, and slight damage was done to the rig. With the assistance of some of the neighbors, he got the horse and buggy out of the ditch and righted, and proceeded on his way to finish the "tater" bugs.

Schnetzler's Fair Store selling out.

June 8, 1889 Annual reception of the Fairbury High School Alumni.

New bagnio in the east part of town near the railroad. Wild orgies are held there almost nightly. Fairbury Gives Freely For Johnstown Sufferers. \$310.00 raised at a mass meeting at the Opera House.

Firm of Taylor and Weaver Dissolved.

Stackpole is Justice of the Peace. He is in the Walton building.

Lou Henderson is clerking at Wade's.

June 15, 1889 P.C. James has leased the Dill property on north Third Street, and will occupy at once.

Someone is killing the bird dogs around town.

Sixth High School Commencement. Three and a half front page columns. (Speeches given). Lu McDowell graduated.

June 22, 1889 Lu McDowell's graduating essay.

House of Ill Fame "rocked". Holes were knocked in it, and there were several pistol shots. The inmates tried to fix it up the next day.

July 6, 1889 (Serial stories have been running for quite some time. This week "Lone Hollow, " or "The Peril of the Penroys" started.)

(DuBois has been putting the Fairbury news on the first page. There are 8 pages.)

Nick Claudon Sr., aged father of Andrew and Nick, arrived from France this week, and will make his home with his sons, 90 years old. Sons: Andrew, Nicholas, Peter, Chris and Joseph.

Katz has a full page ad.

July 13, 1889 Beach and Dominy sold 90,000 bushels of oats last week at 26 cents per bushel, and they are now being loaded on the cars.

Mrs. T.E. Deitz in the arcade Block, will board transients at \$1.00 a day. Meals 25 cents.

Mrs. Kelley's millery business for sale.

"Matings", the heading for the column of weddings

D.L. Murdock is now living in San Diego, Calif.

July 20, 1889 Percy James is devoting his time to going the Secor, where he has quartered his herd of ponies. He says he is meeting with good sales.

July 18, 1889 Alice Perlee, wife of Charles, died of typhoid, aged 35 years.

Nim Maple and Maggie Moran eloped.

W.H. Taylor moving to Oak Park.

August 3, 1889 A duty for the Board of Trustees: An ordinance against fast driving on the streets of town.

Judge McDowell of Washington, D.C., writes us that he and Mrs. McDowell will spend the next four weeks at Ocean Grove, N.J., a popular summering place of the east.

Charles Perlee and children and sister-in-law went to Ohio for a month's rest.

August 10, 1889 A southern Illinois horseman writes T.A. Beach, Supt. of Speed, that he will bring six racers to the Fairbury Fair.

Perlee closing out.

Welsh pony brought from England by G.Y. McDowell for Lorene McDowell, daughter of T.S.O. Their barn is visited daily by scores of people.

Story running, "Isabel, from Shop to Mansion", by Mrs. F.M. Howard.

August 17, 1889 T.S.O. McDowell is building a pony stable at his home.

P.C. James is in receipt of two more car loads of Texas ponies this week. They are quartered in the pasture at Ben Compston's, south of town, and are fully up to the standard of the breed. Percy will probably have his hands full roping them for awhile.

Dr. Lewis dressed Mr. Tavener's hand wounded from a hedge knife.

John Frantz caught his finger in the gearing of a thresher. It was dressed by Dr. Lewis.

Fairbury goes dry for the first time in 13 years.

The President of the Village Board is T.A. Beach. J.E. Lewis is one of the trustees.

The old fire engine has been dismantled and sold for junk.

August 24, 1889 Percy James is in receipt of a pair of fox hounds from Indiana this week. A "stock company" is interested in the "purps", and the members are anticipating considerable sport in chasing the festive coon, foxes and other wild beasts. The dogs are said to be a good breed.

Camp meeting at Cumpston's grove. 15 tents on the ground, one covered wagon and the tabernacle, and 105 tenters. 10 ministers at almost every service. Number of conversions reported.

Arcade Block is gradually sinking, due to the settling at the mine. The water tower is also settling.

Messers Cook Bros. have bought a thousand dollar funeral car.

August 31, 1889 The street to the Fair is to thoroughly sprinkled.

September 14, 1889 P.C. James took an exhibition of roadsters to the El Paso Fair this week.

Lelia Caldwell born.

The pacers, "Happy Jack", "Johnny Mack", and one of P.C. James' studs, all local flyers, contested for the purses at the Piper City Fair Thursday.

Charlie Perlee's sister-in-law is in charge of his house.

September 21, 1889 Miss Friby Filley returned Tuesday from her long visit in Nebraska. She reports having a grand, good time.

C.L. Perlee sold his residence on North fifth to J.J. O'Brien, consideration \$2,275. (He is going into the dry goods business.)

P.C. James reached home last Sunday after making a circuit of the Fairs with his roadster stock. He made a very successful trip, have secured 25 ribbons, 22 of which were blue, out of 27 shows. Mr. James is justly proud of his success. He showed against some of the finest Kentucky and New York stock.

Charlie Perlee has bought Phil Wade's house.

John Milne of Chicago has purchased the Remington place on North Fifth St.

Herbert Powell has bought the law business of F.W. Wilson. He studied in the office of Mc Illduff and Torrance, in Pontiac.

Mrs. T.A. Beach and Stanley Perlee went to Preston, Ohio, this week for a short visit with relatives.

Mrs. D. Salisbury of Strawn was visiting at the home place in this city this week. She has just returned from an extended stay in Minneapolis, where she went to benefit her health.

First professional card of Herbert Powell, Atty., Notary, Insurance Agent, over Walton's Store.

T.A. Beach accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Dr. Lewis, and children, departed for Ohio Thursday evening to perpetrate a surprise on Mrs. Beach who preceded them last week.

October 19, 1889 Dan Fugate warns hunters.

W.C.T.U. library debated in Blade columns.

T.A. Beach and wife and Mrs. Dr. Lewis and children arrived home from their Ohio visit, Wednesday evening.

October 26, 1889 Fairbury Driving Association organized in the rear room of Dr. Lewis' office. T.A. Beach was elected president. They have made application to enter the American Trotting Association. Some of the members are T.A. Beach, George Scriven, W.C. Wade, H.B. Taylor, P.C. James, Mapel Bros., Benj. Cumpston. The Association expects to join Illinois Valley Circuit.

Meeting of the city fathers. T.A. Beach is their chairman.

November 2, 1889 Vaughan's dancing club will indulge in a dance at the Opera House.

Only three buffalo robes left at Walton's. The last buffalo has been killed.

Charlie Perlee has bought the produce business of G.R. Farr.

Judge McDowell and wife of Washington, D.C. are visiting relatives.

November 9, 1889 Wade Bros. Druggists.

First annual meeting of the stock holders of the Fairbury Driving Association in rear room of Dr. Lewis' office.

Violins at Fairbury Drug Store.

November 23, 1889 Herbert Powell's father, Eliaha, Weston, died of heart disease.

Logan Kring is a champion corn husker of sorts.

November 30, 1889 A.B. Claudon is auctioneer at farm sales.

December 7, 1889 H.J. Ramsey – Fairbury Drug Store.

The magnificent row of two story brick buildings on the North side of Livingston Square will be a thing of the past 'ere another twelve months roll on, and whereon a few years ago, a flourishing business was conducted. Old residents will remember the strong fight that was made to hold the center trade at the west end, and that it is hard to combat against the inevitable has been fully demonstrated by the great change that time has made in the appearance of things in what was at one time the liveliest part of this lively little city.

It is reported and currently believed that the largest and best cooked turkey was set before a small select party Wednesday, at the table of Mrs. Dr. Lewis, than has been discussed for many a day. It was the occasion of Mr. T.A. Beach's birthday, and 'Twas said that he and I.P. McDowell were actually carried from the table.

P.C. James lost one of his best breeding mares valued at \$1000. It ran into a board fence which splintered and pierced its side. It bled to death in a few hours. The animal was standard bred and sired by Fairy Gift. She was a beautiful stepper, and took the blue ribbon wherever shown. Mr. James made successful exhibition of her good at El Paso, Wenona and our own Fair, the past fall.

Mrs. Judge Murdock died in San Diego.

Charlie Perlee is building a new produce house.

Ad: Perlees Double Store, east end.

December 14, 1889 Shooting match for Xmas day.

Driving Association meeting.

(New type for Blade.)

December 21, 1889 Masquerade Ball for the Fairbury Hose Company.

P.C. James is much pleased with a roadster of his raising at Racine, Wis. Recently. The animal referred to is the bay mare "Dora", and she went under the wire on October 16 last in 2:30. Dora is sired by Fairy Gift, and is half sister to three colts Mr. James has now on hand. He sold her two years ago for \$2,500 to a member of the Blatz Brewing Co.